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MAILED

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Alan Nicholas Fleet, et al. :
Application No. 09/595,550 :
Filed: June 16, 2000 :
Attorney Docket No.: TA-00418.0 :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition, filed August 1, 2011, to revive the above-identified application under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to respond in a timely manner to the Notice of Allowability mailed November 18, 2005. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on August 8, 2006. On August 11, 2011, the present petition was filed.

This application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg., at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office, at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office).

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the required reply; (2) the petition fee of \$1,620 and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay¹.

The application is being referred to the Office of Data Management for further processing into a patent.

¹ 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. While it is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquires related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204. Telephone inquiries related to processing as a patent should be directed to (571) 272-4200.

/SDB/

Sherry D. Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions